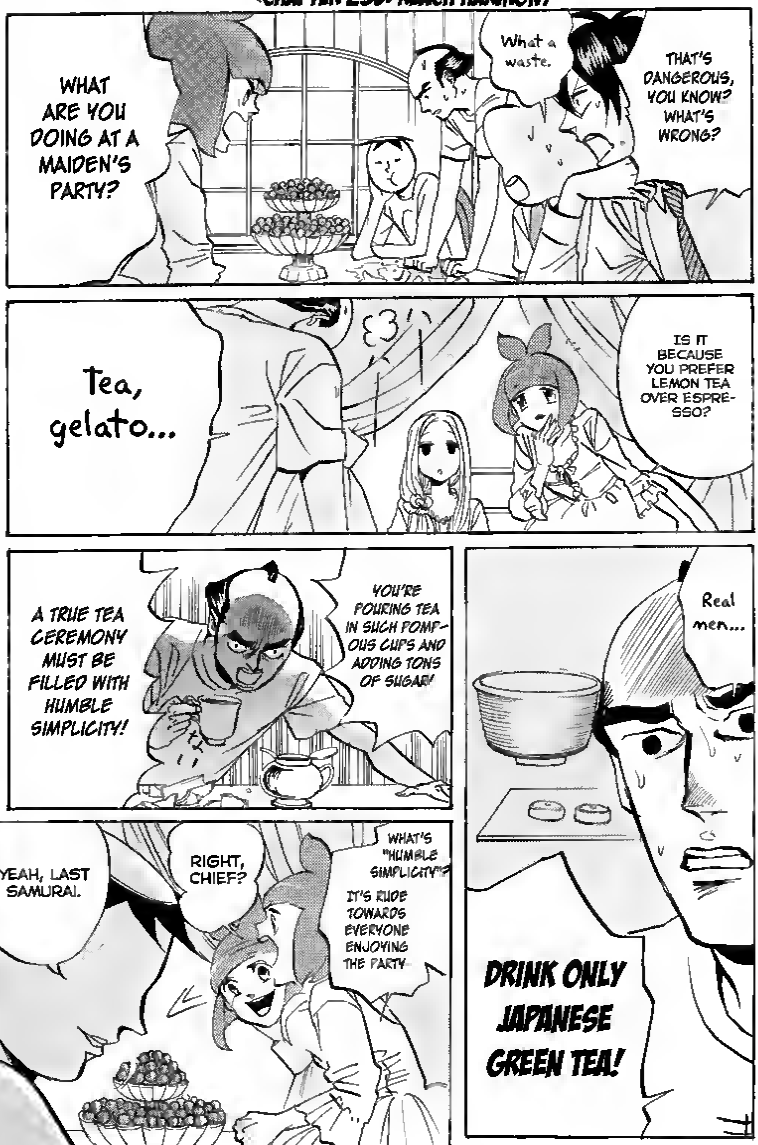
TODAY IS A TEA PARTY IN PASTEL COLORS PRODUCED BY P-KO.
HERE'S TODAY'S DESSERT.
GELATO DROWNED IN ESPRESSO.
A SMALL SWEET PIECE IN A BITTER DRINK.
COLD GELATO IS EMBRACED BY HOT COFFEE...
COMPOSURE AND PASSION...
BON SOIR? WHAT'S WRONG, LAST SAMURAI?
YOU LOOK LIKE A LONELY KITTEN.
IT'S JUST LIKE...
LOVE.
YOU SHOULD SAVE IT QUICKLY, RIGHT?
WERE YOU ENCHANTED BY CHOCOLATE MAGIC?
GELATO IS DROWNING.
Ge... Gelato...

AAARGH, MY TEA CUP!!
I HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO SAVE THAT GELATO!
まって
ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ


WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT A MAIDEN'S PARTY?
What a waste.
THAT'S DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW? WHAT'S WRONG?
Tea, gelato...
IS IT BECAUSE YOU PREFER LEMON TEA OVER ESPRESSO?
A TRUE TEA CEREMONY MUST BE FILLED WITH HUMBLE SIMPLICITY!
YOU'RE POURING TEA IN SUCH POMPOUS CUPS AND ADDING TONS OF SUGAR!
Real men...
DRINK ONLY JAPANESE GREEN TEA!
YEAH, LAST SAMURAI.
RIGHT, CHIEF?
WHAT'S "HUMBLE SIMPLICITY"?
IT'S RUDE TOWARDS EVERYONE ENJOYING THE PARTY

THEY RESOUNDED IN MY HEART LIKE A CLACK OF SHISHIO-DOSHI!
YOUR WORDS ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
I KNEW YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND ME, CHIEF!
No way...
We have a bunch of things to do
YEAH, MEN SHOULD HAVE A TEA PARTY IN THEIR OWN WAY.
SORRY, P-KO, I'M LEAVING.
I'VE PARTICIPATED IN TEA CEREMONIES A FEW TIMES, SO I'M NOT A NEWBIE.
I'M OKAY WITH IT, THOUGH I PREFER PORCELAIN AND GORGEOUS ITEMS.
"LIKE"?
EH? YOU MEAN THE TEA CEREMONY?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A TASTE OF HUMBLE SIMPLICITY TOO?
Yes, Ma'm
You sure you bring me coffee
I'LL JOIN IN, IT SOUNDS VERY JAPANESE-LIKE!
OH, IN OPEN AIR? GREAT!
OKAY, LET'S MEET UNDER THE SAKURA TREE IN AN HOUR!
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Items... Newbie?
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!

ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF THE TEA CEREMONY.
THANKS FOR COMING HERE.
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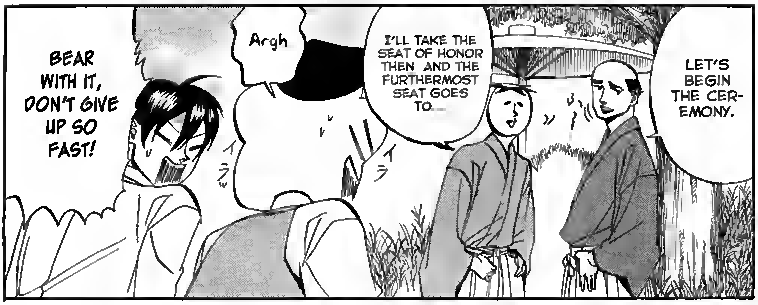
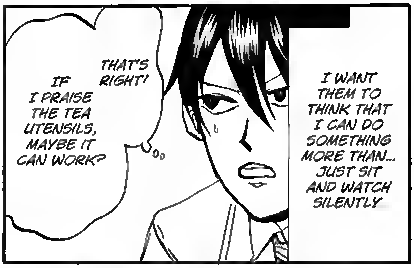
I HOPE THAT YOU'LL FORGET ABOUT THE FLOW OF TIME DURING IT.
AN HOUR LATER.
WOW, IT'S ELEGANT!
WOW, YOU TWO ARE REALLY PREPARED
YOU SAID THAT YOU HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE
BUT DON'T HESITATE TO ASK ME IF YOU DON'T KNOW SOMETHING
AH...
YOU CAN GET THE GIST OF IT AT KYOTO TEMPLE!
I KNOW!
WELL, A LITTLE BIT...
I was there on an excursion
THIS CUP IS INDEED QUITE ORDINARY.
HE SOUNDS RELIABLE TODAY.
STAR, ARE YOU AWARE WHAT HUMBLE SIMPLICITY MEANS?

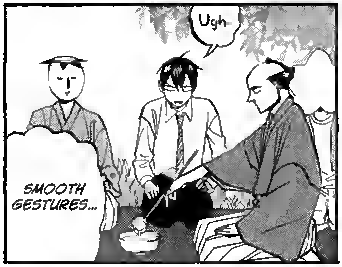
KYOTO TEMPLE, HUH.
WELL, THAT'S VERY BASIC.
INDEED, KYOTO TEMPLE IS NUMBER ONE WHEN IT COMES TO POPULARITY.
BUT EXPERTS LIKE US WOULD CERTAINLY PREFER THE TEMPLE OF GOLDEN PAVILION.
THAT KYOTO TEMPLE, HUH, ISN'T IT OLD?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THEY FELT REALLY OUT OF PLACE.

CHAPTER 236: HUMBLE SIMPLICITY


BEAR WITH IT, DON'T GIVE UP SO FAST!
Argh
I'LL TAKE THE SEAT OF HONOR THEN AND THE FURTHERMOST SEAT GOES TO...
LET'S BEGIN THE CEREMONY.

That's right but I can't be more of a master than them!
That's the way of a master of tea ceremonies!
Let it go past you like a small stream that flows continuously.


THAT'S RIGHT!
IF I PRAISE THE TEA UTENSILS, MAYBE IT CAN WORK?
I WANT THEM TO THINK THAT I CAN DO SOMETHING MORE THAN... JUST SIT AND WATCH SILENTLY



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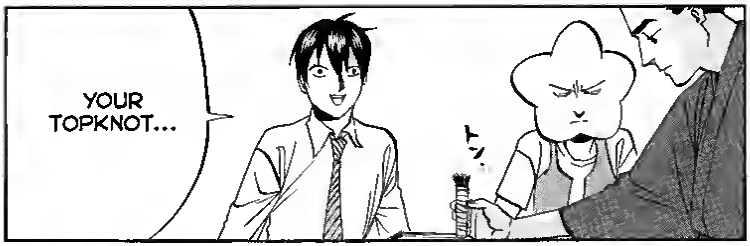
YOUR TOPKNOT...
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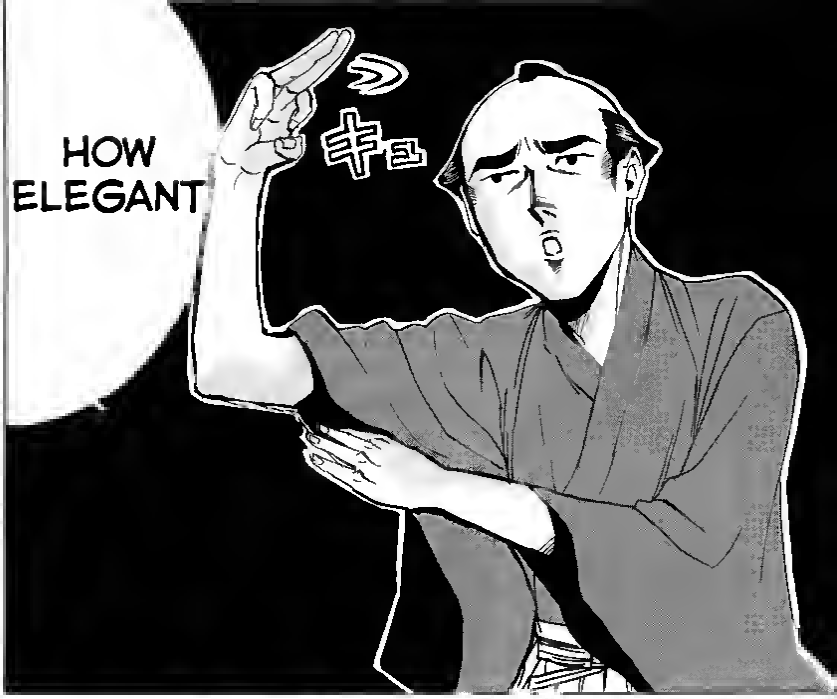
RICK !!
NORMALLY YOU'D COMPLAIN TO THE RESTAURANT OWNER, IF YOU FOUND A SINGLE HAIR IN YOUR FOOD.

OH, HAVE YOU NOTICED IT? YOU ARE REALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE.
INDEED, THIS IS THE "TEA WHISK KNOT" USED IN NOBUNAGA COURT.
DIDN'T YOU JUST PUT A KNOT OF YOUR HAIR IN MY TEA?

HUH?
LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING.
What did he mean?

EH?
THIS UNWORTHY ONE WILL SHOW YOU THE PATTERN.
BEHOLD.
BUT...
I CAN'T AVERT MY GAZE FROM HIS MOVEMENTS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT PATTERN HE'S TALKING ABOUT...
WHA.
WHAT THE HECK IS HE DOING?
BEAUTIFUL!
WHAT IS THIS...


HOW ELEGANT
キュ

THE WAY YOU...
THIS IS...
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EH?

ALL SIX MOVEMENTS TAKE AROUND 40 SECONDS.
SERI-OUSLY !?
SHOULD INSERT PUNCH LINES DURING THE TEA CEREMONY.

HUH? INVITING YOU WAS A MISTAKE.
I BELONG TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL!
NO, YOU'RE WRO...
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE SIMPLEST THINGS?
THOSE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND SHOULDN'T BE IN THE WAY!
THIS UNWORTHY ONE WANTS TO PERFECT HIS TASTE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD DURING THE CEREMONY.
IF I THOROUGHLY COPY EVERY MOVEMENT...
CHIEF...
THEN TRY TO CORRECT YOUR MISTAKES.
EVEN I...
BUT... AT LEAST I KNOW ABOUT HUMBLE SIMPLICITY!
I CAN'T TURN BACK AT THIS POINT!
THEN HE WON'T BE ABLE TO REPRIMAND ME!
OKAY. YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT WITH BOTH HANDS...
THEN PUT IT BESIDE YOUR KNEES...

TAKE OFF THE SHELL...
カチッ...
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ポロ...
コト
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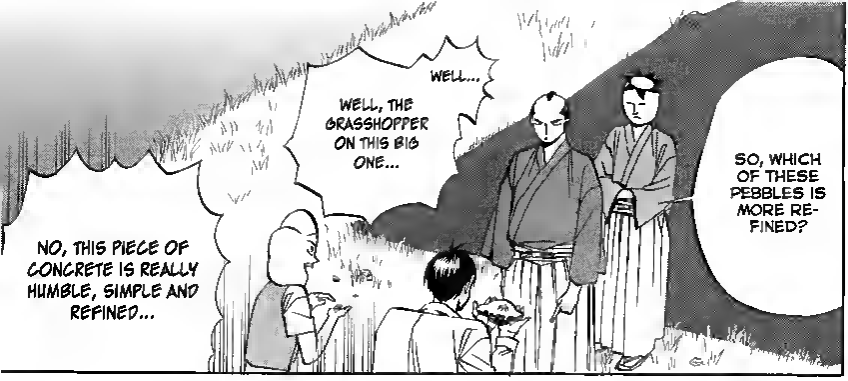
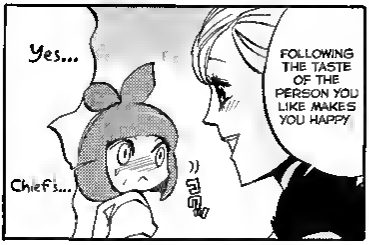
カタ...
HOW ELEGANT !!
YOU HAVE DISPLAYED GREAT SKILL.

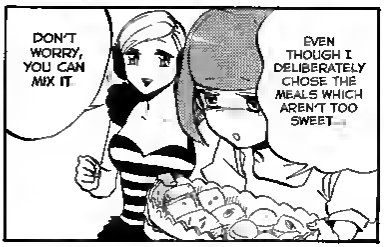
EH?
THIS IS THE TRULY REFINED PUNCH LINE!
THIS IS IT!
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!!
!
Ah, please excuse me, I'm out..
HUH.. FINALLY ...
Rick!!
He-he
Yeah.
MAYBE YOU HAVE A GREAT TALENT!
NO, IT WAS WONDERFUL
Ah~ I still can't compare to experts like you...
But.. But I thought it was cooler this way.
SITTING AT THE TEA CEREMONY WHILE WEARING A HAT ISN'T ALLOWED
HOW PITIFUL.
Really?
Well, I'm more skilled in rock than in tea ceremonies.
COMPARED TO THIS, STAR...

I EVEN FEEL ENVIOUS...
YOUR MASK HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE EVEN BETTER THAN MY SHELL.
I also thought that Star's mask was quite refined
I think your shell is more refined after all!
I really envy you.
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
THIS PEBBLE.
EEH?
HM. YOU GUYS CAN SEE THROUGH TO THE CORE.
LET ME TEST YOU A LITTLE.
HO-HO, NICE OBSERVATION!
I suppose that this moss is very humble.
Hmmm... something is lacking... but I think it's very refined.
YES, I'LL DO MY BEST!

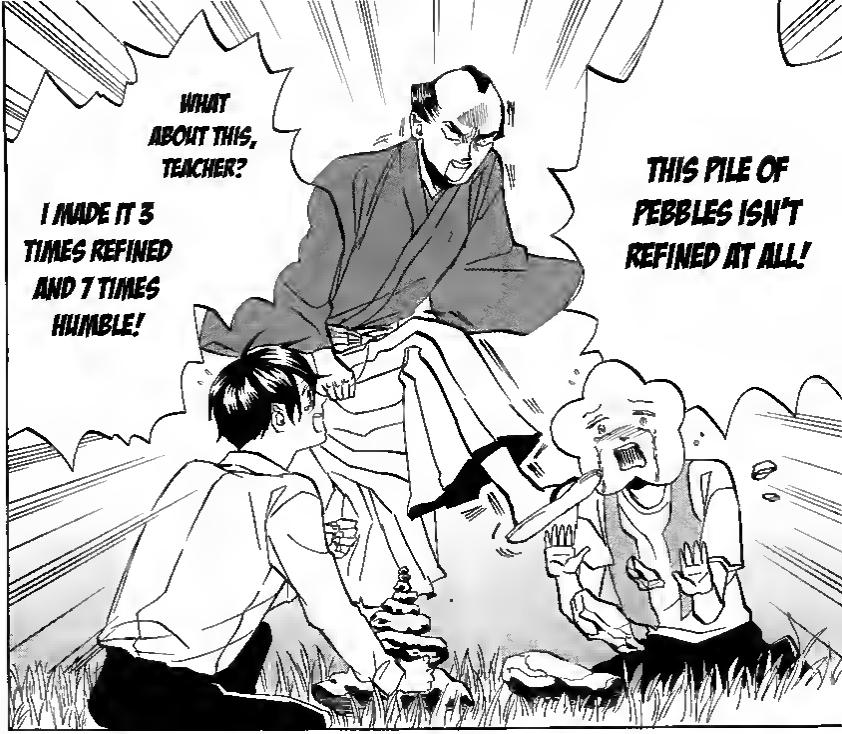

SO, WHICH OF THESE PEBBLES IS MORE REFINED?
WELL...
WELL, THE GRASSHOPPER ON THIS BIG ONE...
NO, THIS PIECE OF CONCRETE IS REALLY HUMBLE, SIMPLE AND REFINED...

AH... MY TEA PARTY WAS TOO HARD FOR THE GUYS TO HANDLE...
OH, SOMETHING IS GOING ON!

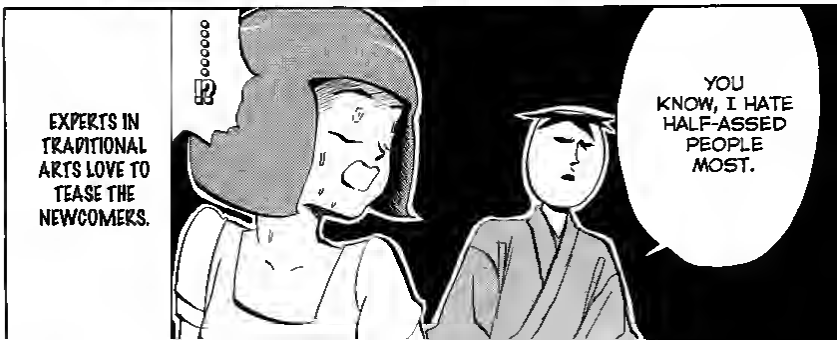

Yes...
FOLLOWING THE TASTE OF THE PERSON YOU LIKE MAKES YOU HAPPY
Chief's...

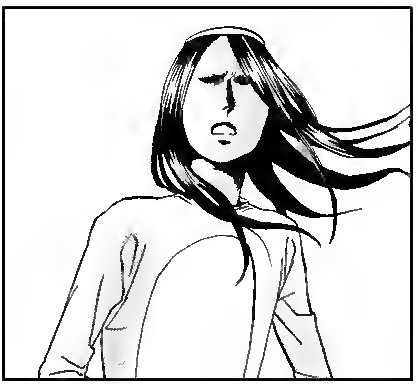

DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN MIX IT
EVEN THOUGH I DELIBERATELY CHOSE THE MEALS WHICH AREN'T TOO SWEET...

THIS IS CHIEF'S BELOVED WORLD OF TEA CEREMONIES...
NO, ALL WRONG, ALL WRONG!!


WHAT ABOUT THIS, TEACHER?
I MADE IT 3 TIMES REFINED AND 7 TIMES HUMBLE!
THIS PILE OF PEBBLES ISN'T REFINED AT ALL!

THEY AREN'T DELICATE ENOUGH.
Why do I have to redo it every time?
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, YOU SHOULD MAKE IT FOUR TIMES!


EXPERTS IN TRADITIONAL ARTS LOVE TO TEASE THE NEWCOMERS.
!?
YOU KNOW, I HATE HALF-ASSED PEOPLE MOST.



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SLOWMANGA

EVEN SLOWPOKES ARE FASTER THAN US!

TRANSLATION: LEOPARD
EDITING: R, SUPREMEBULL
CLEANING: HAZAMA
TYPESETTING: HAZAMA

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